Forest Service

Ouachita National Forest Mena-Oden Ranger District

1603 Highway 71 North Mena , AR 71953 479-394-2382

Fax: 479-394-2389

File Code:

1950/2700

Date:

January 24, 2020

Dear National Forest Stakeholder:

This project announcement letter serves to initiate scoping, "an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed" (40 CFR 1501.7). Scoping is required for all Forest Service proposed actions, including those that would appear to be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an EA or an EIS (36 CFR 220.4C(1)).

Proposed Action

The Forest Service proposes to authorize the installation and maintenance of overhead powerlines, clearing and maintenance of associated corridor to be 15 feet on either side of the centerline, as well as guying tract easement in conjunction with line deflection as needed. Pine and hardwood trees within the corridor would be removed and marketed as appropriate.

Three permit applications were received from Rich Mountain Electric Cooperative in December 2019 the location and site specific description of the proposed utility corridors are as follow:

- Accessing seven private properties off of Road 7130 on Polk Road 402, 409, 633 and Brushy Creek Road. Length of line to be 19,938 feet in length. Township 4 South, Range 30 West, Section 5, 6 &7, and Township 4 South, Range 31 West, Section 1&2. (Map 1)
- Accessing The City of Mena Water treatment facility at Irons Fork Lake. Length of line to be 1,400 feet in length. Township 1 South, Range 29 West, Section 18. (Map 2)
- Reroute of powerline accessing The City of Mena Water treatment facility at Irons Fork Lake.
 Length of line to be 4,312 feet in length. Township 1 South, Range 29 West, Section 19. (Map 3 and 4)
- Accessing private property off of PK 64 Shady Lake Entrance Road Length of line to be 1,383 feet in length. Township 4 South, Range 28 West, Section 31. (Map 5)

The designated scoping period for the proposed action begins January 24, 2020 and ends February 24, 2020. Unless scoping identifies extraordinary circumstances, this project is within a category of actions that is excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS; only a decision will be documented. If you have questions about this project or would like more information, please contact Russell Standingwater at (479) 394-2382 or russell.standingwater@usda.gov, or address written comments to District Ranger, 1603 Hwy 71 North, Mena, AR, 71953.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the management of your National Forest.

Sincerely,

TIM OOSTERHOUS

District Ranger













